IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with <u>underlining</u> and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please CANCEL claims 3-6, 15-18, 27, 31-32, 40-41, and 49 without prejudice or disclaimer in accordance with the following:

1.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An image processing apparatus, comprising:

a storage device recording screen information of picture information; and

an image controlling circuit controlling input and output of picture information, comprising:

a copy guard detecting circuit detecting a copy guard signal, indicating a copying prohibition, included in an input video signal of picture information,

a video decoding circuit digitizing the input video signal, and

an image processing circuit reducing screen information digitized by said video decoding circuit, to deteriorate an image quality, and storing the reduced screen information to said storage device, in a case where said copy guard detecting circuit detects the copy guard signal,

wherein screen information includes a first part and a second part and the stored reduced screen information includes only the first part.

2.-12. (CANCELLED)

13.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method for controlling image information, comprising:

detecting a copy guard signal, indicating a copying prohibition, included in an input video signal;

digitizing the input video signal;

reducing the digitized screen information, to deteriorate an image quality, in a case where the copy guard signal has been detected; and

storing the reduced screen information,

wherein screen information includes a first part and a second part and the stored

reduced screen information includes only the first part.

14-24. (CANCELLED)

25.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A computer readable storage storing a computer-readable program which controls a computer system to execute an image controlling process, by:

detecting a copy guard signal, indicating a copying prohibition, included in an input video signal; and

reducing screen information to deteriorate an image quality, digitized out of the input video signal, in a case where the copy guard signal is detected;

storing reduced screen information,

wherein screen information includes a first part and a second part and the stored reduced screen information includes only the first part.

26.-27. (CANCELLED)

28.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED)   The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the screen information is reduced by at least one of pixel reduction, line reduction, and frame reduction.

29.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED)   The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the inputted picture information displayable on a screen of a display device is not reduced both when the copy guard signal is not detected and when the detected copy guard signal indicates a copying restriction.

30.-36. (CANCELLED)

37.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED)   The method for controlling image information according to claim 13, wherein reducing the digitized screen information is by at least one of pixel reduction, line reduction, and frame reduction.

38.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED)   The method for controlling image information according to claim 13, wherein inputted picture information is displayable on a screen of a display device without being reduced both when the screen information is both protected, and

not protected, from copying.

39.-45.(CANCELLED)

46.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED)   The computer-readable storage storing a computer-readable program according to claim 25, wherein the screen information is reduced by at least one of pixel reduction, line reduction, and frame reduction.

47.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED)   The computer-readable storage storing a computer-readable program according to claim 25, wherein inputted picture information is displayable on a screen of a display device without being reduced both when the screen information is both protected, and not protected, from copying.

48.-49. (CANCELLED)